



# SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE *February 2025*



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## *Superintendent's* **MESSAGE**

Dear HLPUSD Community,

Even though February is the shortest month of the year, our students, teachers, staff, and schools have made tremendous strides and achieved many of their goals. Their hard work and resiliency continue to inspire and strengthen our commitment to the educational journey ahead, and I am excited to share some key highlights with you.

Our partnership with the Board of Education is essential in ensuring the success of our District, schools, staff, teachers, and students. Through this collaboration, we are able to create an enriching, accessible, and equitable educational environment for all students. Thank you to our 2025 Board of Education members:

- President: Stephanie Serrano
- Vice President: Gino Kwok, Esq.
- Clerk: Adriana Quiñones
- Member: Nancy Loera
- Member: Jeffrey De La Torre

In February, we also had the privilege of celebrating our District's successes at the 10th Annual State of the District event. This annual gathering honors our community

members, from students and parents to teachers and staff, and highlights how we work together to foster academic excellence and innovation.

Our students continue to shine at a local and national level. From singing the national anthem at sports games to representing the District in Washington, D.C., our students are gaining real-world experiences that will help them succeed in their future careers. Civic learning opportunities are available to our youngest learners in elementary school, while our high school seniors are being recognized by national organizations for their accomplishments. Our students are a testament to the District's commitment to providing an exceptional education, where every opportunity for growth, learning, and success empowers them to reach their full potential.

As we look toward the rest of the school year, let us continue to work together to create a supportive environment where every student can thrive. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to bringing student success to the forefront of our everyday work. We are grateful for the collaborative spirit that unites our community, and we look forward to the continued success we will achieve in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alfonso Jiménez  
Superintendent  
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District



## Hacienda La Puente Unified Celebrates 10th Annual State of the District

Hacienda La Puente Unified's community came together for the **10th annual State of the District** on February 6, which highlighted our commitment to engaging students to become lifelong learners while celebrating key milestones achieved in the past year.

The theme of the night was "Transformative Learning, Pathways for Student Success," where we shared how the District continues to evolve and invest in rigorous academic curricula and technological advancements to prepare students for future opportunities in rewarding, in-demand careers.

The evening was highlighted with live student performances by the William Workman High School jazz band, Glen A. Wilson High School choir, and for the first time performing together, mariachi ensembles from Orange Grove and Sparks middle schools. La Puente High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps led a presentation of colors as Los Altos High School senior Ambar Muro led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Check out [a recap video of our student performers on our Instagram page](#).



*Mariachi ensembles from Orange Grove and Sparks middle schools perform for the first time together during HLPUSD's 10th annual State of the District event on February 6.*

## Hacienda La Puente Unified Celebrates Lunar New Year with Student Arts Performances

Hacienda La Puente Unified brought the Year of the Snake alive during [a visually stunning and melodious Lunar New Year's celebration](#) on February 18, featuring the student talents of Glen A. Wilson and Los Altos high schools, and Mesa Robles and Newton middle schools, who honored the holiday's cultural heritage with song and dance.

Wilson High senior Taylor Hornell, who attended previous District Lunar New Year celebrations, said he was eager for an opportunity to kick off the cultural festivities and provided opening remarks in Mandarin, with others speaking in English and Korean.

"This is my first time doing the opening statement for Lunar New Year and I'm honored and excited to be part of the event," Hornell said. "My mother is Chinese and I wanted to read the statement in honor of our family culture. Lunar New Year is a time of renewal and being with family, so it's great I can spend this time with my friends at school as well."

Read about the rest of the Lunar New Year event on our [recent news and announcements page](#).



*Los Altos High School senior Yuxuan Pan plays electric guitar during the finale of Hacienda La Puente Unified's annual Lunar New Year celebration on February 18.*



## Glen A. Wilson High School Coders Win Congressional App Challenge

Glen A. Wilson High School computer science students combined their knowledge and talents to create an AI-powered app designed to let users detect the possibility of skin cancer from their mobile phones. The app, [named FOCAL](#), was recently recognized as a U.S. House of Representatives Congressional App Challenge winner by Linda Sánchez, California's 38th District Representative.

The FOCAL team, led by Wilson senior Julina Liu, juniors Ethan De la Cruz and Alvin Cheng, sophomore Nolan Huang, and their faculty advisor, Wilson computer science teacher Courtney Bushyeager, were recognized by Sánchez during a special ceremony.

"This year, we were thinking of creating an app that can positively benefit a lot of people," De la Cruz said. "Skin cancer is one of the most prevalent issues of our time right now, we thought that would be a good issue to tackle."

The winners will head to Washington D.C. in April to attend the 2025 #HouseOfCode Gala that will gather Congressional App Challenge recipients from across the country to celebrate their achievements and showcase their apps to Congress and their peers. The winning apps will be featured on the [House.gov website](#) for the next year.

Read more about the FOCAL app on our [recent news and announcements page](#).



*Glen A. Wilson High School computer science students recognized as a U.S. House of Representatives Congressional App Challenge winner by Linda Sánchez, California's 38th District Representative.*

## La Puente High School Senior Recognized as National Renaissance Student of the Month



*La Puente High School senior Vanessa Gutierrez participates in the Roses of Honor tradition during the Class of 2024 commencement ceremony on May 17.*

Whether competing in sports, managing a packed academic schedule, or serving as a leader among her peers, [La Puente High School senior Vanessa Gutierrez](#) demonstrates dedication and drive, qualities that have brought her recognition as a National Renaissance Student of The Month.

When asked about how Renaissance has impacted her, she said, "When entering high school, I was shy and not involved, but I joined Renaissance my freshman year. Over time, I joined sports and clubs, made friends, and became someone with a voice. Because

Renaissance welcomed me, I was able to grow as a person."

Upon graduation this spring, Gutierrez hopes to attend an out-of-state university, where she plans to major in sports business, combining her passion for athletics with her academic goals to build a successful career in the sports industry.

Read more about her Renaissance Student of the Month recognition through [their webpage Q&A](#).

*William Workman High School Senior Lauren Medina contributed to this story.*

## Elementary School Students Engage in the Civic Process



*Workman Elementary School leadership students spoke at a February 11 La Puente City Council meeting as part of Project LEAD.*

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District elementary school students are actively participating in the civic process through the Project Life Experiences About Democracy (LEAD) program, a dynamic, hands-on partnership with the City of La Puente that fosters civic learning and engagement.

Students from Nelson and Workman elementary schools attended the LEAD Leadership Conference, where they gained valuable insights into the functions of various city departments and their roles in supporting the community. The students also participated in a mock city council meeting, providing them with a unique opportunity to share their perspectives on what they appreciate about the city and what changes they hoped to see.

“Without Project LEAD, we wouldn’t understand how the city supports us,” Nelson Associated Student Body President Quetzatli Maldonado said during the La Puente city council meeting on February 11, where Project LEAD students shared their experiences with the La Puente City Council members and the community.

Read more about our Project LEAD students on [our webpage](#).



*Nelson Elementary School students participated in the LEAD leadership conference on February 4, where they gained valuable insights into the functions of various city departments and their roles in supporting the community.*

## Middle School Student Sings National Anthem at Professional Basketball Game

Mesa Robles sixth-grader Ellie Liu performed the national anthem center court to open the game between the South Bay Lakers and the Texas Legends. Adding to the special moment, Hacienda La Puente Unified alumnus Jarod Lucas — a Mesa Robles and Los Altos High graduate who now plays for the Legends — congratulated Liu on her outstanding performance.

Watch her performance through our [HLPUSD Instagram page](#) and follow us for more exciting student news!



*After Mesa Robles sixth-grader Ellie Liu (right) performed the national anthem, HLPUSD alumnus and Texas Legends player Jarod Lucas (left) posed with her.*



## Immigration Resource Webpage for Parents

In recent months, reports of immigration enforcement activities in California have brought uncertainty and fear to many families. As a District that values diversity and the strength that comes from our shared experiences, we recognize that it is our differences that make us stronger and our community beautiful. We want to reassure all our students, families, teachers, and staff that we stand together in support, especially during these challenging times.

We recognize the emotional toll that these circumstances can take on students, families, and staff. The District has robust mental health support and resources available so that every student has access to the help they need. Our counselors, social workers, and mental health professionals are available to offer guidance and a safe space for students to express their concerns.

Our [Immigration Resource webpage](#) provides District and community resources to help you advocate for yourself, your family, and others.



**FREE WORKSHOP**  
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!  
STAY INFORMED

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
FROM 2PM - 3PM

For more information, call CHIRLA's  
Immigrant Assistance Line  
Monday - Friday (9am-5pm)  
at 1-888-624-4752



**PREPARE TO STAY!**

**CHIRLA**  
Coalition for Humane  
Immigrant Rights

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS  
COALITION FOR HUMANE  
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

2025 W. 3RD STREET STE.  
111 LOS ANGELES, CA  
WWW.CHIRLA.ORG



**TALLER EDUCATIVO GRATUITO**  
CONOCE TUS DERECHOS  
INFÓRMATE

**CADA MIÉRCOLES**  
DE 2PM - 3PM

Para más información, llame a la  
Línea de Asistencia al Inmigrante  
Lunes-Viernes 9am-5pm  
al 1-888-624-4752



**¡PREPÁRATE PARA QUEDARTE!**

**CHIRLA**  
Coalition for Humane  
Immigrant Rights

CONOCE TUS DERECHOS  
COALITION FOR HUMANE  
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

2025 W. 3RD STREET STE.  
111 LOS ANGELES, CA  
WWW.CHIRLA.ORG

## Now Open: 2025-26 Enrollment!

Hacienda La Puente Unified is still accepting enrollment for the 2025-26 school year. Families are invited to enroll their TK-12th-grade students and immerse their students in real-world learning experiences, robust social-emotional support, and a diverse array of more than 25 career technical education programs spanning 16 pathways across 10 industry sectors.

Visit [our enrollment page](#) for more information and provide your student with the gift of transformative learning!

# HLPUSD'S WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

*Proud to be, creating mental harmony.*



## February Wellness Wednesday Recap: Connect With Your Community and With Yourself

Hacienda La Puente Unified is committed to providing robust resources and support services for all our students and fostering healthy and happy school communities that value and respect our students, staff, and families.

Here are a few District and community resources that Hacienda La Puente Unified offers to students, staff, and families to equip them with the tools to navigate times of uncertainty and find community connections:

- **Counseling Offices and Wellness Centers:** Students have access to compassionate counselors, social workers, and mental health professionals, along with local community resources and services including counseling, empowerment workshops, peer-to-peer support, and case management. Contact your school for specific services on site.
- **Financial Assistance for Students and Undocumented Students:** Financial aid support for students and parents navigating the road toward higher education.
- **CA Dream Act Application:** Eligible students can apply for state financial aid, and your private information is never shared with the federal government or used for immigration enforcement purposes.
- **National Association for Student Administration:** A helpful guide for undocumented students, answering common questions and providing support.
- **LGBTQ Youth Suicide Hotline (866) 488-7386:** The Trevor Project provides free, immediate crisis support with counselors available 24/7, and 365 days a year from anywhere in the United States. Connect confidentially via text, chat, or phone.

To receive personalized suggestions on additional District resources, including information on food banks, foster youth programs, mental health support, and wellness apps, call (626) 933-5302 to speak with the [Equity and Access department](#).

## Public Meeting Notice



哈崗拉朋地聯合學區


**學區**  
網路視訊市政廳  
**會議**

2025年 3月 19日, 星期三 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Zoom 網路視訊平台**  
<https://hlpusd-k12-ca.zoom.us/j/91990003831>

**歡迎大家踴躍參與!**

在 Zoom 網路視訊平台提供中文 (普通話) 翻譯  
更多相關信息, 請傳電子郵件至: [info@hlpusd.org](mailto:info@hlpusd.org)

HACIENDA LA PUENTE  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT


*District*  
**VIRTUAL TOWN HALL  
MEETING**

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

**via Zoom**  
<https://hlpusd-k12-ca.zoom.us/j/91990003831>

*Everyone is Welcome!*

Language interpretation will be provided in Mandarin and Spanish via Zoom.  
For more information, please email [info@hlpusd.org](mailto:info@hlpusd.org)




HACIENDA LA PUENTE  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**REUNIÓN**  
INFORMATIVA COMUNITARIA VIRTUAL  
*Del Distrito*

Miércoles, 19 de marzo de 2025 a las 5:30 p.m.

**A través de Zoom**  
<https://hlpusd-k12-ca.zoom.us/j/91990003831>

*¡Todos son bienvenidos!*

Se proporcionará interpretación en mandarín y español a través de Zoom.  
Para más información, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a [info@hlpusd.org](mailto:info@hlpusd.org)



Join us for our upcoming Virtual Town Hall meeting with Hacienda La Puente Unified School District's Superintendent Dr. Alfonso Jiménez. HLPUSD holds open meetings for students, teachers, and parents to stay connected with the District and receive the latest updates.

The meeting will be available in both Mandarin and Spanish via [Zoom](#). Email [info@hlpusd.org](mailto:info@hlpusd.org) for more information.

## Board of Education Meeting Presentations

Hacienda La Puente Unified works in close partnership with our Board of Education members, administrators, staff, and community to ensure that our students are receiving a high-quality education and are on the pathway to success.

Every month, HLPUSD hosts Board meetings to discuss and make critical decisions on a variety of topics, including policies, budget reviews, improvement plans, and current news and events. The public also has an opportunity to provide comments directly to District administrators and board members, in person or virtually.

During these meetings, HLPUSD includes informative presentations that outline key updates and celebrate the success of our students, teachers, staff, schools, and District. You can view these presentations through our [presentations webpage](#) and through our recent [news and announcements](#).



## HLPUSD Summer Program Enrollment is Open

Hacienda La Puente Unified is offering summer enrichment courses to keep your student engaged and ready for the next school year. Programs include computing, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (C-STEM) courses, algebra, a Broadway Bound summer musical theatre conservatory, and more.

Students will be enrolled based on incoming grade levels for the 2025-26 school year. After school programs are available for grades TK to 6 from May 27 to July 17.

Visit [hlpusd.org/students/summer-programs](https://hlpusd.org/students/summer-programs) on how to enroll into a summer program and for additional contact information.

